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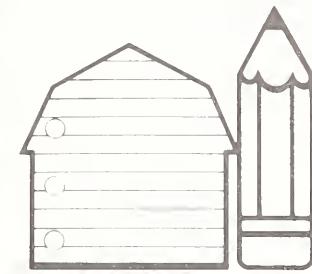
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Ag in the Classroom

Notes

A bi-monthly newsletter for the Agriculture in the Classroom program. Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to help students understand the important role of agriculture in the United States economy. For information, contact: Shirley Traxler, Director, Room 317-A, Administration Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-2200. 202/447-5727

United States
Department of
Agriculture

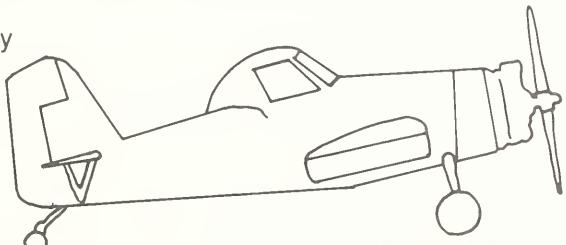


Jan./Feb. 1990
Vol. 5, No. 8

New Materials Take Students Up, Up and Away

"Kids are fascinated by airplanes," says Ruthanne Koch of the Women of the National Agricultural Aviation Association (WNAAA). "Introducing agriculture by talking about airplanes is a guaranteed way to arouse their interest."

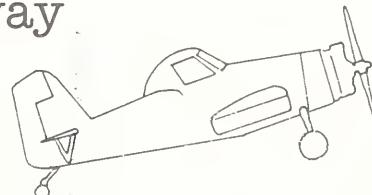
With Cindy Schreiber-Beck, chair of the WNAAA Education



Committee, Koch has developed curriculum guides that use the subject of agricultural aviation as an introduction to the study of agriculture in the classroom. Koch serves as chair of the

WNAAA Public Relations Committee.

WNAAA offers two curriculum guides, one geared for elementary students and one including activities for junior/senior highs. The theme of *continued on page 7*



A Front Door to Agricultural Science

A historic building on the grounds of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center today offers teachers and students a look at the research that is shaping the future. Opened in 1989, the ARS National Visitor Center provides a close-up look at the work of USDA research scientists.

The Visitor Center, housed in the Log Lodge, is a new educational experience on the international importance of food and agricultural sciences. The Log Lodge was originally built from blueprints of lodges for Yellowstone National Park by the depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps.

The outside of the building may be a reminder of the past, but inside the Log Lodge are displays featuring state-of-the-art research on the likely future of the food and fiber

Historic Log Lodge now houses the new ARS National Visitor Center.



continued on page 7

From the Director

Dear Readers,

"Agricultural Literacy in a Changing World" is the theme of the 1990 National AG in the Classroom Conference, which will be on June 3, 4, and 5 at the Capitol Holiday Inn at 550 C Street SW in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Department of Agriculture invites all of you who are actively involved in your state's AITC program to attend. We want to learn more about your activities and give you the opportunity to hear all about the exciting developments occurring in AITC programs around the country. We also look forward to welcoming our colleagues from Canada and to finding out about AITC progress in each of the Provinces as well as nationally. This year's conference will feature a general

session on global agriculture and marketing and breakout sessions on food safety, the environment, and animal care. We look forward to seeing you in June.

Please complete and return the National AITC Conference registration form below before April 15. For additional information, contact the AITC office, 317-A, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 447-5727.

Yours truly,

Shirley Traxler

Register for the 1990 AITC National Conference

If you plan to attend the 1990 Ag in the Classroom National Conference on June 3, 4, and 5, at the Capitol Holiday Inn in Washington, D.C., please complete this form and return it to:

Heritage Travel Conference Service
 985 L'Enfant Plaza SW
 Washington, D.C. 20024
 Attention: Beatina Coe

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Please enclose with this form your payment of \$65 to cover conference registration which includes lunch on June 4 and 5 and breakfast on June 5.

Make check or money order payable to Heritage Travel Conference Service.

Important note: Registration fee after April 15 will be \$75.

The room rate is \$85.00 for single and \$105.00 for double occupancy + 11% tax. I will be sharing a room with _____

All room reservations must be accompanied by a one-night deposit in the form of a check or the following credit card information:

Credit card name _____

Number _____

Expiration date _____

Your signature _____

Reservations should be made by April 15, 1990. If you need assistance with travel arrangements call Heritage Travel, toll free at: 1-800-626-5200.

Spotlight

Rhode Island Teacher Chooses the Best

Fourth grade students at Narragansett Elementary School in Narragansett, Rhode Island, are learning more than just literature and social studies. Thanks to teacher Elaine Stedman and materials developed by Rhode Island AITC, Narragansett students are learning about agriculture — and having fun while they do.

Stedman's involvement with teaching agriculture in the classroom began two years ago. She read about a poster contest to design a logo for Rhode Island AITC. Her student Greg Marchetti was one of two students from the state whose design was chosen. He, his parents, and Stedman were all invited to the state capitol to meet with the Lieutenant Governor and members of the legislature. After that experience, Stedman began to look for ways to teach more about agriculture.

Stedman believes that integrating agriculture into her regular lesson plans helps her enrich her students' experiences. She uses the Rhode Island Resource Activity Guide regularly. In fact, she says, "I even chose to use a lesson from the activity guide on the day I was evaluated!"

To help her students understand what life was like for the early settlers, Stedman had her students grind their own corn and bake corn bread. She duplicated activity sheets from the guide that showed how early colonists used water mills or windmills to grind the corn.

To give her students some "hands-on" experience, she even brought in stones they could use to grind their own corn. "Of course," she says, "when you're being evaluated, you're always nervous about what else the kids might decide to do with the stones." But she says they were so engrossed in what they were learning that everything went well.

Stedman also includes information on agriculture in her Rhode Island history unit. Few of her students have any personal experience with farms. "By studying agriculture, they learn that the food they eat doesn't just start out on a grocery store shelf."

The most valuable thing about using the Rhode Island AITC materials, Stedman believes, is the flexibility they offer a teacher. "I love developing activities," she says, "but it's great to draw on the experience of other teachers, too. When I plan my unit, I can pick and choose activities from several teachers, so I can offer my students the best."

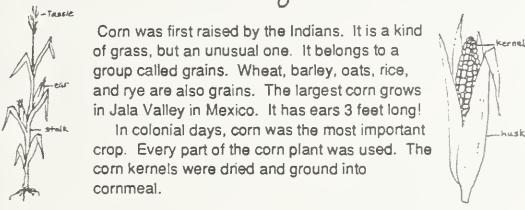


Elaine Stedman

Agriculture in the Classroom

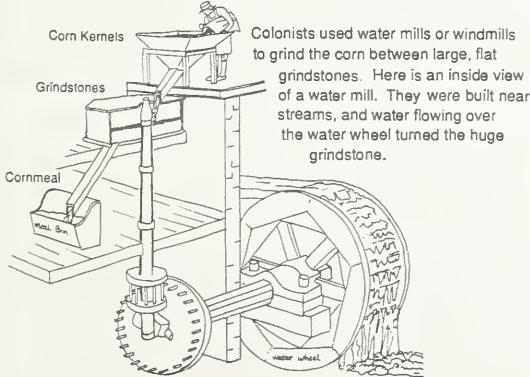


The Story of Corn



Corn was first raised by the Indians. It is a kind of grass, but an unusual one. It belongs to a group called grains. Wheat, barley, oats, rice, and rye are also grains. The largest corn grows in Jala Valley in Mexico. It has ears 3 feet long!

In colonial days, corn was the most important crop. Every part of the corn plant was used. The corn kernels were dried and ground into cornmeal.



The cornmeal was boiled to make a "mush" or corn pudding. Sometimes corn batter was roasted on a plank or fried on a griddle in little cakes. In Rhode Island these were called johnnycakes, and many people still love to eat them today. They are eaten with butter, molasses or maple syrup.

Chopped corn stalks were fed to cows in winter. Corn husks were used to stuff mattresses and corn cobs were burned to smoke meat.

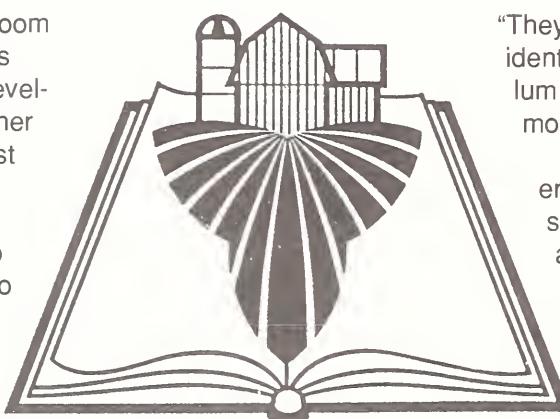
The activity sheet is taken from the Rhode Island AITC Resource Activity Guide

Ontario: New Links With Schools, Businesses

Ontario's Ag in the Classroom program focused its efforts during the past year on developing resources and teacher materials. One of the most significant efforts of the program was to hire three educational consultants to work on a regional basis to develop AITC programs. The consultants have three major responsibilities:

- to examine curriculum to determine areas where agricultural activities could be integrated;
- to make contacts with county boards of education and to conduct professional inservice training for teachers;
- to coordinate the work of volunteer groups.

"Our consultants often work with agribusinesses that are interested in developing materials for school distribution," says Lorraine Holding, Manager, Special Programs, Rural Organizations and Services Branch, for Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

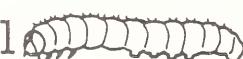


"They help these businesses by identifying gaps in the curriculum where their efforts will be most helpful to teachers."

Because they are teachers themselves, Holding says, the consultants have also been instrumental in building relationships with teachers throughout the province. Articles in education association publications have introduced the consultants to teachers, and have given the program a "tremendous boost," she says.

During 1990, Ontario AITC hopes to become an independent program. A steering committee and an implementation committee, representing both the public and private sectors, are hard at work developing specific strategies for creating an autonomous organization. During the next year, the program will also focus on pre-service education by developing workshops for teacher training institutions throughout Ontario.

Video Highlights "New-Old" Method of Pest Control



Biological control is an old method for controlling agricultural pests that is generating new interest and excitement. A 30-minute, USDA-produced video, "Biological Control—A Natural Alternative," provides a greater understanding and appreciation of this environmentally safe way to eradicate or control agricultural pests.

More than 20,000 pest species cause losses of up to \$12 billion each year in the United States alone. Pest species include insects, weeds, nematodes, bacteria, fungi, and viruses. The sheer magnitude of the problem has forced growers to seek new ways to control pests. Biological control is one promising method now being adopted across the country.

The video includes both an overview of biocontrol and key examples of projects in which beneficial insects and other organisms are used to control pestiferous insects and

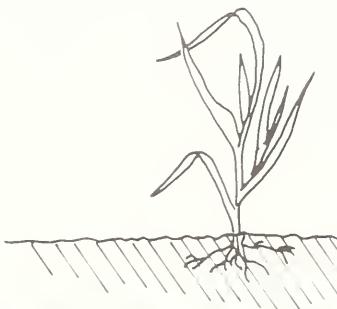
weeds. It can be shown freely via local television outlets without fear of copyright infringement.

The video is available in either Beta or VHS 1/2" format for \$50.

Contact:
Customer Service
National Audiovisual Center
8700 Edgeworth Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20745
(301) 763-1896

A companion brochure, "Biological Control—Spreading the Benefits," is also available free of charge in limited quantities.

Contact:
Printing and Distribution Management
USDA
APHIS
M&B
G-110 Federal Building
Hyattsville, MD 20782
(301) 436-8413.



Rhode Island is the smallest U.S. state, but the Rhode Island AITC program is having a big impact on schools throughout the state.

Just off the press is the AITC Resource Activity Guide, which contains a wealth of information on integrating agriculture into a variety of subjects for grades 4-6. Al Bettencourt, Secretary of the Rhode Island AITC Committee, is now distributing the Guide at a series of training workshops that show teachers how to use the activities in their classrooms.

The introduction to the Guide notes, "Teachers today are overburdened with tasks. We dump all of the nation's ills on the doorstep of our educational institutions. We expect teachers to teach about drugs, sex, and morality in addition to math, science, reading, and writing. . . Now we are asking teachers to teach about agriculture."

The Guide is designed to make the job of teaching about agriculture easier for teachers. "We don't want to give teachers something else to teach," said Carol Stamp, state contact for AITC in Rhode Island. "We want them to incorporate activities from the Guide into their existing curriculum."

For that reason, the Language Arts section of the Guide includes a number of activities teachers can use with *Charlotte's Web* and *Little House on the Prairie*, both books that are often taught in Rhode Island schools. The Social Studies section includes activities that teach and reinforce map and chart reading, objectives that teachers are required to teach.

In addition to the Resource Guide, Rhode Island AITC is also distributing a box of resource materials on Rhode Island agriculture that teachers can use to further expand their students' knowledge of agriculture. It includes a number of USDA publications, 4-H activities, and Rhode Island Division of Agriculture materials. It also includes the software for Rhode Island's own version of the computer program, "Farm and Food Bytes."

The box also includes a videotape, "Dairy Farming in Rhode Island." The video, which shows a day in the life of a typical Rhode Island dairy farmer, is the first in what Bettencourt hopes will become a series of videos available to schools. "In some cases, we may duplicate and distribute existing videos," he says. "In other cases, we may produce our own."

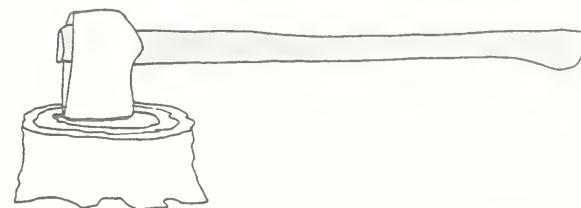
Bettencourt sees the need for AITC programs increasing. "Today, fewer and fewer kids grow up with any direct contact with the

farm," Bettencourt concludes. "Ag in the Classroom makes it possible for them to understand the importance of agriculture in their lives".



Name that President

Here's a quiz to test students' knowledge of our Presidents.



Name 5 Presidents who did farmwork some time in their lives.

1st (1789-1797)

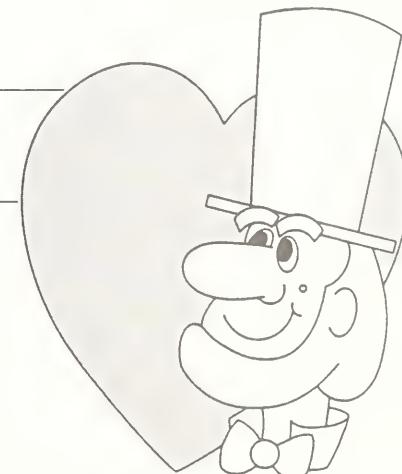
3rd (1801-1809)

7th (1767-1845)

16th (1861-1865)

39th (1977-1981)

(from the new Rhode Island AITC Resource Activity Guide)



Honest Abe

National Ag Day Scheduled for March 20

National Agriculture Day is a salute to the people, businesses, and organizations responsible for providing America with the highest quality of food and fiber. The celebration of Ag Day increases the awareness of agriculture's accomplishments and the challenges it faces in continuing to meet the world's food and fiber needs. This year, National Agriculture Day is scheduled for March 20; National Agriculture Week is March 18-24.

Last year, AITC programs planned a number of activities to coincide with National Agriculture Day. Special activities included:

- In Wiliston, Ohio, third graders examined soil samples and planted soybeans in cups to observe the growing process.

- In Clermont County, Ohio, elementary students

colored hundreds of paper bags with Ag Day designs. The bags were then given out to shoppers at two grocery store chains.

- In Pierre, South Dakota, the Chamber of Commerce adopted a fourth grade class. The students visited ag equipment dealers, grain elevators, and a ranch where they had a South Dakota brown bag lunch.

- In Dane County, Wisconsin, senior citizens served as judges of an essay contest for students in grades 3-8.

This year, the Agriculture Council of America is making a variety of materials available for use by AITC programs. "Tradition and Change" is the title of the poster reproducing a Bart Forbes painting. It measures 24" x 31" and is available at a special rate of \$1.00 each.

A wallet-size card filled with agricultural facts is available in packages of 100 for \$10.00. Agriculture Education Kits include a variety of resources that can both educate and entertain. The kits, available at a cost of \$2.00 each, include the following components: the Constitution Story (with an agricultural slant), five brief biographical profiles of famous people in agriculture, a two-page spread of fun facts about agriculture with humor-

**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE DAY**

Honoring America's Providers

"Tradition and Change" is the title of a poster by Bart Forbes celebrating National Agriculture Day.

ous illustrations, a large agricultural crossword puzzle and two fact cards with the most requested agricultural statistics from across the nation.

To order these materials, or to receive further information about National Agriculture Day, contact Paul Wagner at (202) 682-9200 or write to the Agriculture Council of America, 1250 I Street, N.W., Suite 601, Washington, DC 20005.

Agricultural Science

Continued from page 1

industries. Visitors to the center learn about plant breeding and biotechnology, animal nutrition and disease prevention, soil conservation, irrigation technology, biological control of pests, and human nutrition studies. Other exhibits tell of careers in agricultural science and engineering, the products and inventions of such research, ARS interaction with regulatory agencies, and the ARS Science Hall of Fame.

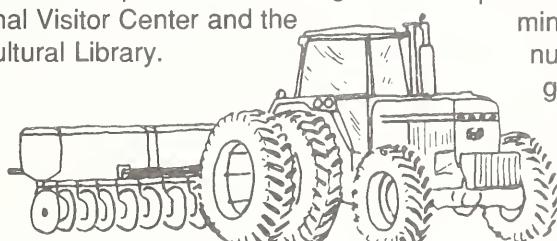
During 1989, more than 25,000 people toured the Visitor Center. Steve Berberich, Director of the Center, says visitors include scientists, business people, foreign travelers, and members of the general public. But the most frequent visitors by far are teachers and students.

"We want teachers to view tours of the Visitor Center as a regular part of their curriculum," Berberich notes. When teachers call to arrange a tour, staff members will help tailor a visit that will meet the teacher's specific needs. They also send out materials teachers can use before and after the tour.

The Beltsville Center is the site for scientific research in a number of key areas. Scientists who are studying nutrition, medicine, hydrology, and the greenhouse effect are all close at hand.

"Teachers are always surprised by the breadth and scope of agricultural research they see here," Berberich reports. "In fact," he adds, "'amazed' is the word we keep hearing."

Those who attend the national AITC conference will have the pleasure of touring both the National Visitor Center and the National Agricultural Library.



Up, Up and Away

JAN/FEB 1990

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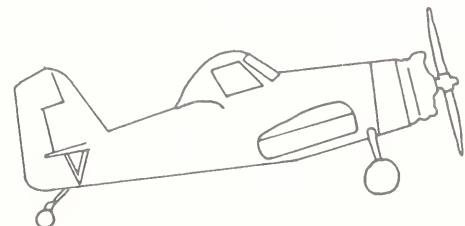
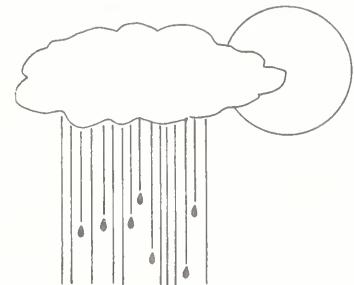
both guides is "Agricultural Aviation: Critical Assist for the World's Food Supply."

Both guides offer students a brief look at the history of agricultural aviation. Specialized activities allow teachers to integrate the subject of agricultural aviation in subjects ranging from language arts to physics and from social studies to earth science.

Both guides include a number of reproducible activity sheets, as well as a suggested list of additional activities that teachers can use. Guides were reviewed by educators and by agricultural aviators before publication to make sure materials were both accurate and appropriate for classroom use.

The guides are also designed to help develop a positive image of the agricultural aviation industry. "We reviewed textbooks before we began writing the materials," Koch notes. "In most textbooks, there is no mention made of agricultural aviation. But when it is mentioned, it is usually in a negative context."

Activities also respond to another real concern. "Teachers know that the biggest complaint they hear from students is, 'When will I ever need to know this?'" says Koch. The WNAAA materials help teachers respond to that question. All situations presented in the curriculum guides reflect a pilot's "real-life" experiences, Koch notes. "Whether it's determining the cost of fuel or planning the number of acres that can be sprayed in a given amount of time, we've tried to make our materials reflect the problems we face every day."



Mississippi: New Farm and Food Bytes

Working with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, the Mississippi AITC program has developed a Mississippi section of the Farm and Food Bytes computer program. The program, says Mississippi state contact Helen Jenkins, "has proved to be an exciting way to learn about agriculture with emphasis on our own state."

Through the cooperation of Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, each county Farm Bureau in the state has received a copy of the computer program. At the state's leadership

conference last spring, computers were set up in the meeting areas and leaders had a chance to get some real "hands-on" experience working with the program.

One copy of the program was distributed to a school in each of the state's 100 counties. Counties and school districts are placing orders for additional programs. The Cooperative Extension Service, for example, has ordered several copies of the program for use by 4-H Clubs.

Ag in the Classroom — State Contacts

The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state. If you have any questions, want to make reports, or need more information about your state's Ag in the Classroom program, contact the following:

Alabama Ms. Jane Alice Lee c/o Brenda Summerlin Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries P.O. Box 3336 Montgomery, Alabama 36193 (205) 261-5872 (Home: (205) 272-2611	Hawaii Mr. Ken Kajihara Vo-Tech Educational Specialist Department of Education 941 Hind Luka Drive, Room B24 Honolulu, Hawaii 96821 (808) 373-3477	Michigan Dr. Eddie Moore Michigan State University Room 410 Agriculture Hall East Lansing, Michigan 48824 (517) 355-6580	New York Ms. Betty Wolanyk New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Cornell University 24 Roberts Hall Ithaca, New York 14853-5901 (607) 255-8122	South Dakota Ms. Gail Brock SD Farm Bureau P.O. Box 1426 Huron, South Dakota 57350 (605) 353-6731
Alaska Mr. Ted Berry Mat-Su College University of Alaska P.O. Box 2889 Palmer, Alaska 99545 (907) 745-9752	Idaho Mr. Rick Phillips Idaho Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 790 Boise, Idaho 83701 (208) 334-3240	Minnesota Ms. Julie Chamberlain Michigan Farm Bureau 7373 W. Saginaw Highway Lansing, Michigan 48909 (517) 323-7000	Tennessee Ms. Nancy E. Facey North Carolina Farm Bureau P.O. Box 27766 Raleigh, North Carolina 27611 (919) 782-1705	Tennessee Mr. Bobby Beets Tennessee Farm Bureau Box 313 Columbia, Tennessee 38401 (615) 388-7872
Arizona Ms. Sue Whitsitt 4341 E. Broadway Phoenix, Arizona 85040 (602) 255-4456	Illinois Ms. Ellen Culver Illinois Farm Bureau 1701 Towanda Avenue P.O. Box 2901 Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2901 (309) 557-2219	Mississippi Mr. Alan Withers Mississippi Department of Agriculture 90 W. Plato Boulevard St. Paul, Minnesota 55107 (612) 296-6688	North Dakota Ms. Kaye Quanbeck North Dakota Department of Agriculture State Capitol Bismarck, North Dakota 58505 (701) 224-2231	Utah Mr. El Shaffer Information Specialist Utah Department of Agriculture 350 North Redwood Road Salt Lake City, Utah 84116 (801) 533-4104
Arkansas Dr. Phillip Besonen Center for Economic Education GE 310 University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 (501) 575-4270 or 575-2855	Indiana Mr. Robert M. Book President, Indiana Institute of Agriculture Food and Nutrition 101 West Washington Street # 1320 E Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317) 637-1600	Ohio Ms. Helen Jenkins Mississippi Farm Bureau P.O. Box 1972 Jackson, Mississippi 39205 (Street: 6310 I-55 N, Jackson, MS 39215) (601) 957-3200	Vermont Ms. Judy Roush Director of Ohio AITC 910 Ohio Departments Building 65 South Front Street Columbus, Ohio 43266 (614) 466-3076	Vermon Dr. Gerald Fuller University of Vermont Agricultural Engineering Building Burlington, Vermont 05405-0004 (802) 656-2001
California Mr. Mark Linder California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom 1601 Exposition Boulevard Sacramento, California 95815 (916) 924-4380	Iowa Ms. Sandy Teig Iowa Department of Agriculture Wallace Building Des Moines, Iowa 50319 (515) 281-5952	Missouri Ms. Diane Olson Missouri Farm Bureau P.O. Box 658 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 (314) 893-1400	Virginia Ms. JoDahl Theimer Oklahoma Department of Agriculture 2800 North Lincoln Boulevard Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 (405) 521-3868	Virginia Ms. Florence Fisackerly Women and Young Farmers Department Virginia Farm Bureau Federation P.O. Box 27552 Richmond, Virginia 23261 (804) 788-1234
Colorado Ms. Helen Davis Colorado Department of Agriculture 1525 Sherman Street Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 866-3561	Kansas Ms. Becky Koch 124 Blumenthal Hall Kansas State University Manhattan, Kansas 66506 (913) 532-7946	Nebraska Ms. Ellen M. Hellerich NE Farm Bureau Federation P.O. Box 80299 Lincoln, Nebraska 68501 (402) 471-4400 ext. 2002	Washington Ms. Julie Sandberg Washington State Department of Agriculture 408 General Administration Building Olympia, Washington 98504 (206) 586-1427	West Virginia Mr. William Aiken West Virginia Farm Bureau Route 3, Box 156-A Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201 (304) 472-2080
Connecticut Ms. Fifi Scoufopoulos, Chairperson Windham County Conservation District P.O. Box 112 Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234 (203) 774-0224	Louisiana Ms. Barbara Ruth Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation P.O. Box 95004 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895-9004 (504) 922-6200	Nevada Mr. Ben Damonte 12945 Old Virginia Road Reno, Nevada 89511 (702) 853-5696	Pennsylvania Ms. Susan Robertson RFD 1 Box 641 Northwood, New Hampshire 03261	Wisconsin Mr. Dennis Sabel Wisconsin Farm Bureau P.O. Box 5550 7010 Mineral Point Road Madison, Wisconsin 53705 (608) 833-8070
Delaware Mr. Sherman Stevenson Delaware Farm Bureau 233 South Dupont Highway Camden-Wyoming, Delaware 19934 (302) 697-3183	Maine Mr. Chaitanya York Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources State House, Station 28 Augusta, Maine 94333 (207) 289-3511	New Jersey Ms. Cindy K. Effron Coordinator of Agricultural Development State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture CN 330 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 (609) 292-8897 or 633-7463	Rhode Island Mr. Fred Kerr Pennsylvania Farmers Association Box 736 Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011 (717) 761-2740	Wyoming Mr. Gene Paxton Braae Road, Route 6 Douglas, Wyoming 82633 (307) 358-5828
Florida Mr. John McNeely Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service LL-29 The Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (904) 488-9780	Maryland Mr. Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Secretary of Agriculture 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 545-2646	New Mexico Mr. E. G. Blanton New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau 421 N. Water Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001 (505) 526-5521	South Carolina Ms. Lynn Hutziger 915 Rutledge Building South Carolina Department of Education Columbia, South Carolina 29200 (803) 734-8433	Guam Dr. R. Muniappan College of Agriculture and Life Sciences University of Guam Mangilao, Guam 96923 (617) 734-3113
Georgia Ms. Louise Hill Georgia Farm Bureau 1620 Bass Road P.O. Box 7068 Macon, Georgia 31298 (912) 474-8411	Massachusetts Mr. Wayne Hipsley 211 Stockbridge Hall University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts 01003 (413) 545-2646 or 545-4645			Virgin Islands Mr. Eric L. Bough Assistant Commissioner Department of Economic Development and Agriculture St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00850 (809) 778-0991

Ag in the Classroom Notes
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-2200

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